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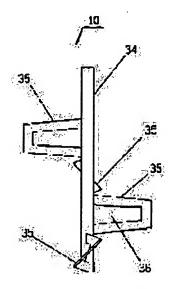
YANAI NORIO

(54) DEVICE FOR AGITATING INTERIOR IN REACTOR FOR SOAP PRODUCING APPARATUS

(57)Abstract:

PURPOSE: To provide an inexpensive agitating device for apparatus for producing soap from waste edible oil discharged from home, having sufficient agitating and breaking effects also after making the contents in a solid state and having simple structure by constituting each of plural wings attached to a rotating shaft so as to exhibit a specific figure.

CONSTITUTION: This device 10 is provided in a reactor for soap-producing apparatus and has a rotating shaft 34 and plural agitating wings 35 whose base part is attached to the rotating shaft 34 and these agitating wings 35 are constituted so that depression angle of parts of these wings 35 to the advancing direction becomes smaller as positions of the wings 35 are close



to the top. Furthermore, the depression angle does not exceed 90 degree in the base of the agitating wings 35. Plural agitating wings 35 have delayed angles, namely, being constant to all agitating wings and equal to a quotient obtained by dividing 360 degree with wing numbers according to rotating direction in the order of the lower wings and each agitating wing 35 has a hole 36 at the central part and each wing is preferably formed of a U-shaped member and the end part in the pen position is preferably fixed to the rotating shaft 34.

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CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] It is such small churning equipment that each of these impellers has a near inclination [as opposed to / it is prepared in the reaction container of a soap manufacturing installation, have a revolving shaft and two or more impellers by which the base was attached in this revolving shaft, and / the travelling direction of that] at a tip.

[Claim 2] Said inclination is churning equipment which does not exceed [in / on claim 1 and / the base of an impeller] 90 degrees.

[Claim 3] It is churning equipment formed in the location of the include angle in which said two or more impellers were about the hand of cut sequentially from the lower thing in claim 1 or 2.

[Claim 4] It is churning equipment with said overdue include angle fixed in claim 3 about all impellers.

[Claim 5] It is churning equipment equal to the quotient into which said overdue include angle divided 360 degrees by the number of aerofoils in claim 4.

[Claim 6] It is churning equipment with which each of two or more of said impellers has a hole in the center section in claim 1 thru/or either of 5.

[Claim 7] It is churning equipment with which each of two or more of said impellers consists of a character type member of KO in claim 6, and the edge of the open place is being fixed to said revolving shaft.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention] [0001]

[Industrial Application] Especially this invention relates to the churning equipment in a reaction container suitable for the small soap manufacturing installation for manufacturing soap about a soap manufacturing installation from a small amount of waste food oil produced at ordinary homes. [0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] It is very large-sized, it is impossible to make good soap from having used as the raw material a small amount of waste food oil produced at ordinary homes, and the conventional usual soap manufacturing installation is ******. Moreover, in the production process by it, years of experience of an expert called "****" was needed. this invention persons -- the conventional experts -- an amateur -- or although the person near it consulted about the approach and equipment which can manufacture good soap from a small amount of waste food oil, it was the reply were impossible. [0003] The soap manufacturing installation which can process a waste food oil with an amount of about 201. was still able to be offered after efforts. The structure of this equipment arranges a gas heater in the lower part of a reaction container, and is made to rotate it by the motor which formed the churning equipment in a reaction container in that upper part. Putting a waste food oil into a reaction container, and continuing heating by the gas heater, and churning by churning equipment, the water solution of a sodium hydroxide is added gradually and soap is taken out from a reaction container after termination of a saponification reaction.

[0004] However, it is not easy to collect continuously waste food oils with an amount of no less than 201. from ordinary homes. In **** and having processed the about several 1. waste food oil with this equipment, oil remains in the done soap and good soap is not obtained. Moreover, if soap is manufactured from a waste food oil, since the volume will expand about 3 times, if the general-purpose container for processing a 201. waste food oil expects the allowances for actuation, volume of 801. or more will be needed, therefore equipment will become remarkable magnitude.

[0005] Then, this invention persons advanced research further and already proposed the small soap manufacturing installation suitable for processing of an about several 1. waste food oil (Japanese Patent Application No. No. 71570 [five to]). With this equipment, the reaction container and the alkali dissolution container are attached in the stand together with width. Heating apparatus, such as a ribbon heater and a band-shaped electric heater, are formed in the peripheral face of the flank of a reaction container, and thermometry equipment is formed in the skin of a pars basilaris ossis occipitalis. There is opening in the pars basilaris ossis occipitalis of an alkali dissolution container, and the hose is connected here. This hose leads to the upper part of a reaction container through the pump, it passes along this, and the alkali water solution in an alkali dissolution container is sent to a reaction container.

[0006] The upper part of a reaction container is attached in a stand, and is always stopped by the stand by the withdrawal attachment pin energized at the reaction container side by means of a spring, and the pars basilaris ossis occipitalis of a reaction container is attached in the stand through the revolving shaft. In case a reaction container takes out contents, it can lengthen a upside attachment pin, can solve the

stop to a stand, and can lean the revolving shaft of a pars basilaris ossis occipitalis as the center of rotation. A motor is attached above churning equipment, and in case it is combined disengageable by the coupler and the revolving shaft of a motor and the revolving shaft of churning equipment lean a reaction container as mentioned above, they can operate this coupler and can solve association between the revolving shaft of a motor, and the revolving shaft of churning equipment.

[0007]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] The contents of a reaction container are liquefied at first, and particular thing does not have the viscosity, either. However, if the anhydrous sodium carbonate which is the assistant of soap gradually at the increase of viscosity and the last when a reaction progresses is added, it will be in a solid condition which kneaded buckwheat flour and which carried out tattering, and this is gradually broken by the impeller and granule-izes. In the place granule-ized suitably, a stop and contents are taken out and dried, and a grinder grinds churning equipment, and it is used as soap powder.

[0008] Even if it does not put the creativity according to rank on churning equipment, while the contents of a reaction container are liquefied, there is no especially un-arranging. The problem was in the granule-ized process after being in a solid condition, and conventional churning equipment was not what churning / crushing capacity in this process can not necessarily satisfy. Since it is so small that the hoop direction rate of each point of an impeller is close to a revolving shaft as one of the causes, the agitated objects which consist of many solid lumps gather near a revolving shaft gradually, therefore it is thought that churning / crushing capacity will decline.

[0009] Even after the contents of a reaction container are in a solid condition, the technical problem of this invention is to improve the churning equipment in a reaction container so that sufficient churning / crushing effectiveness may be demonstrated and granule-ization can be carried out efficiently.

[0010]

[Means for Solving the Problem] In the churning equipment of this invention, it has such a respectively small configuration that the inclination over the travelling direction of two or more impellers attached in the revolving shaft is near at a tip. This inclination is good to make it not exceed 90 degrees in the anchoring section of an impeller.

[0011] These impellers are good to prepare in the location of the include angle which was overdue about the hand of cut sequentially from a lower thing. For example, successive impellers are prepared in the location which was overdue the fixed include angle every. One mode is preparing n impellers in the location of 360 degrees which was [every / n / 1/] overdue.

[0012] It is better for each impeller to have a hole in a center section. For example, it fixes centering on the edge of the open place using the character type member of KO. [0013]

[Function] According to this invention, each impeller has an inclination component suitable for a rotational outside. Consequently, since the agitated object which hit the impeller also receives the force of going to a rotational outside, it does not gather near a revolving shaft, therefore sufficient churning / crushing effectiveness is demonstrated.

[0014] Moreover, if two or more impellers with the above inclinations are attached sequentially from a lower thing in the angle location which was overdue one by one about the hand of cut, an agitated object will be lifted upwards from the bottom by the impeller which comes successively, and will be broken. [0015] Furthermore, if the hole is opened in the impeller, a comparatively large lump will be broken, being raised upwards from the bottom as mentioned above, but since a comparatively small lump withdraws from a hole and stops downward, he can carry out [granule]-izing efficiently. [0016]

[Example] one example of the soap manufacturing installation according [<u>drawing 1</u> and <u>drawing 2</u>] to this invention -- respectively -- a top view and a side elevation -- it is. Many components of this soap manufacturing installation 1 are attached in a stand 2. Central components are the reaction container 3 and the alkali dissolution container 15.

[0017] The reaction container 3 has 10 thru/or the net volume of 151., and, thereby, can process 1.5

thru/or a 31. waste food oil. In the lower part of the flank peripheral face of the reaction container 3, the heating apparatus 4, such as a band-shaped electric heater and a ribbon heater, are formed, and the outside of this heating apparatus is covered with it with the heat insulator 5. Thermometry equipment 6 is attached in the base of the reaction container 3, and this contains the heat sensitive switch for overheating prevention. If the reaction container 3 is held with the container rocking lever shaft 7 and the container lock-pin 9 and the container lock-pin 9 is removed from the engagement to a stand 2, it can lean the reaction container 3 to a left in drawing 2 by making the container rocking lever shaft 7 into the center of rotation.

[00018] First, if maintenance by the container lock-pin 9 is explained in full detail, as shown in drawing 1, the container stationary plate 8 fixed to the both-sides side of a stand 2, respectively, and the lock-pin tie-down plate 26 has fixed, respectively in each side face which counters the container stationary plate 8 of the reaction container 3 in an upright position. As shown in drawing 3, there is a hole along which the container lock-pin 9 passes in the lock-pin tie-down plate 26, a compression spring 27 is inserted in the container lock-pin 9 which penetrated this hole, the washer 28 which presses down this spring further is inserted in, it escapes at the end, and the pin 29 for stops is driven in. The container lock-pin 9 is always drawn to the reaction container 3 side by this structure. The container lock-pin 9 consists of the large handle section of a size, a thin point which passes along the hole of the lock-pin tie-down plate 26 loosely, and pars intermedia (engagement section) 37 of those middle sizes by whether it was suitable for grasping by hand, and becoming.

[0019] On the other hand, the infeed 25 sideways [for maintenance] is formed, and although this infeed 25 has enough width of face larger than the diameter of the point of the container lock-pin 9, it becomes the container stationary plate 8 fixed to the stand 2 from the slot section smaller than the diameter of pars intermedia 37, and an attaching part of a dimension into which the pars intermedia 37 of the container lock-pin 9 of that back goes comfortably. In a usual condition, as shown in (C) of drawing 3, the pars intermedia 37 of the container lock-pin 9 fits into the attaching part of infeed 25, and holds the reaction container 3 to stability. The edge of the longitudinal direction of the container stationary plate 8 is bent at the include angle of 15 degrees thru/or 30 degrees at the reaction container side, and as the tip 38 is shown in (A) of drawing 3, it is located in a reaction container side a little rather than the boundary of the point of the container lock-pin 9, and pars intermedia 37 in a usual condition. [0020] If the container lock-pin 9 of the both sides of a reaction container is lengthened outside with both hands, if the hand in which the thin point of each pin arrived at the location of the slitting 25 of the container stationary plate 8, then lengthened the container lock-pin is shortly lengthened to the left in <u>drawing 2</u> and <u>drawing 3</u>, as it is As shown in (B) of <u>drawing 3</u>, the container lock-pin 9 can pass along the slot section, and it can be come out of it out of infeed 25, therefore, similarly it can move the upper part of the reaction container 3 to a left with a container lock-pin. If its hold of the handle section is released after that, the container lock-pin 9 will be lengthened by the spring 27, and as shown in (A) of drawing 3, it will be restored to the normal position about the lock-pin tie-down plate 26. [0021] If the upper part of the reaction container 3 is pushed on the right from Hidari in drawing 2 and drawing 3, without touching the container lock-pin 9 in order to return a reaction container to the normal position, as shown in (A) of drawing 3, and (B), the tip of the pars intermedia 37 of the container lock-pin 9 will be pushed outside along the inclination of the edge of the container stationary plate 8, and a thin point will go into the slot section of infeed 25. Furthermore, when it pushes, at last, the pars intermedia 37 of the container lock-pin 9 arrives at the location of the attaching part of infeed 25, is lengthened by the spring 27, and it fits in there, and returns to the usual condition shown in (C) of <u>drawing 3</u>, and the reaction container 3 is certainly fixed to a vertical position in this way. [0022] With the equipment previously proposed by above-shown Japanese Patent Application No. No. 71570 [five to], contrary to the structure mentioned above, a container lock-pin is attached in a stand side, and the interior material of a proposal with the infeed with which a container lock-pin goes into a reaction container side is prepared. Therefore, when leaning a reaction container, one person lengthened the container lock-pin with both hands, and one more person had to lengthen the handle of a reaction container, and had to operate it by two-person charge. A reaction container can be easily leaned by

lengthening and lengthening a container lock-pin to the front continuously only by one person on them outside with both hands, since the container lock-pin serves as the handle of a reaction container on this and a contrast target according to above-mentioned structure.

[0023] Next, if maintenance by the container rocking lever shaft 7 is explained in full detail, as shown in drawing 4, the container supporting-point plate 31 fixed to the stand 2, and the container tube support plate 33 fixed at the pars basilaris ossis occipitalis of the reaction container 3, and the hole along which the container rocking lever shaft 7 passes in each has opened. The ring-like flange is attached to the end of the container rocking lever shaft 7, the hole which lets a pin pass near the other end is open, and the container rocking lever shaft 7 which penetrated each hole of the container supporting-point plate 31 and the container tube support plate 33 is prevented [that falls out and that it was devoted to the aforementioned flange and the aforementioned hole falls out by the pin for stops, and]. [0024] According to this structure, centering on the container rocking lever shaft 7, the reaction container 3 is right and left rotatable in drawing 2, therefore by moving the upper part of the reaction container 3 to right and left as mentioned above, can lean the reaction container 3 or can be returned. An assembly and decomposition are also easy. The notch 32 prepared at the suitable include angle for one corner of the container supporting-point plate 31 prevents inclining more than it in the base, when it acts as a devotion stopper and the reaction container 3 is leaned. Although various devices can be considered for prevention of superfluous devotion, though the aforementioned device is easy structure, it excels in the point which can stop devotion at a predetermined include angle certainly.

[0025] It returns to drawing 1 and drawing 2, churning equipment 10 is stored in the interior of the reaction container 3, and the turning effort is transmitted through the transmissions 11, such as a belt, a chain, and the gear train, from the motor 12 formed in the side of the reaction container 3. The rotational frequencies of churning equipment 10 are per minute 30 thru/or 50 rotations. Although equipment proposed [above-shown] was also so, conventionally, the motor was placed right above the reaction container and the direct drive of the churning equipment was carried out by this motor. However, with such structure, the motor was exposed to a steam and heat from the reaction container, poor insulation and rust were generated, and this broke down owing to in many cases. However, according to the above-mentioned structure, such failure can be prevented nearly completely.

[0026] The shaft of churning equipment 10 is combined with the shaft by the side of a transmission 11 disengageable by the coupler 13. A coupler 13 is the ring which was put on the shaft by the side of a transmission 11 and which can be moved idly, usual is lowered to the lower part location, the pin 14 prepared in the shaft by the side of churning equipment 10 enters into the infeed prepared in the lower limit, and, thereby, association between shafts is maintained at it. If a coupler is moved upwards, since a pin 14 will separate from the infeed and association between shafts will be solved, with the reaction container 3, churning equipment 10 is leaned and the thing of it can be carried out.

[0027] Especially <u>drawing 5</u> shows the detail of churning equipment 10 about an impeller. In this drawing, left-hand side rotates a stirrer toward the back of space in the direction in which right-hand side goes before space. Four impellers 35 are attached sequentially from the lower thing in the angle location which was overdue by a unit of 90 degrees about the hand of cut. Each impeller is the character type plate-like part material of KO, the base (direction which the character of KO opened) was mostly attached in parallel with the axis of a shaft 34, and it can be twisted so that a point may have the inclination of about 45 degrees to a travelling direction.

[0028] The impeller may lean a little perpendicularly also in the attachment section. The number of impellers does not not necessarily have the need of making the same angle of lag between all aerofoils in addition to four pieces, either. However, a typical design is preparing three pieces thru/or six aerofoils in the location which was [for the number of aerofoils of 360 degrees / every / 1] overdue. Moreover, the hole of not only the character type thing of KO but a suitable dimension and a configuration has just opened the member of an aerofoil.

[0029] The operation effectiveness of this structure is explained. The contents of a reaction container are liquefied at first, and particular thing does not have the viscosity, either. However, if the anhydrous sodium carbonate which is the assistant of soap gradually at the increase of viscosity and the last when a

reaction progresses is added, it will be in a solid condition which kneaded buckwheat flour and which carried out tattering, and this is gradually broken by the impeller and granule-izes. In the place granule-ized suitably, a stop and contents are taken out, it dries, and a grinder grinds churning, and it is used as soap powder.

[0030] Although for a problem to be in the granule-ized process after being in a solid condition, and to carry this out efficiently was desired, conventional churning equipment was not what can not necessarily be satisfied. Since the hoop direction rate of each point of an impeller of one problem is so small that it is close to a revolving shaft, and agitated objects gather gradually that the inclination of an impeller is uniform from a base to a tip near a revolving shaft, a stirring effect decreases. However, since the impeller can be twisted with the above-mentioned structure, an inclination is so large that it becomes at the tip of an aerofoil. If it puts in another way, this impeller has an inclination component suitable for a rotational outside. Consequently, since the agitated object which hit the impeller also receives the force of going to a rotational outside, it does not gather near a revolving shaft, therefore sufficient churning / crushing effectiveness is demonstrated.

[0031] Moreover, since according to the structure mentioned above two or more impellers are attached sequentially from a lower thing in the angle location which was overdue the fixed include angle every about the hand of cut and have an inclination to a travelling direction, a comparatively large lump is lifted upwards from the bottom by the impeller which comes successively, and is broken. However, a comparatively small lump withdraws from the hole 36 of the character type aerofoil of KO, and stops downward. Therefore, it can granule-ize efficiently.

[0032] It returns to drawing 1 and drawing 2 again, the alkali dissolution container 15 is formed in the side of the reaction container 3, and the net volume is 2 thru/or 4l. As for the alkali dissolution container 15, the cross section is shown in drawing 2. A funnel 16 is formed above the alkali dissolution container 15, and flake-like an alkali ingredient and water, such as a sodium hydroxide, are put in from here. A lid 17 is formed in a funnel 16 so that a contaminant etc. may not go into an alkali dissolution container. Churning equipment 18 is stored in the interior of the alkali dissolution container 15, and this rotates by the motor 19 formed above the alkali dissolution container, and agitates the ingredient in a container. The rotational frequencies of this churning equipment are also per minute 30 thru/or 50 rotations. [0033] In accordance with that wall, the pipe 20 is inserted in the interior of the alkali dissolution container 15 in the lengthwise direction, that upper limit was connected to the hose or the tube 21, and this hose or tube is prolonged in the reaction container 3 through the pump 22. The lye in an alkali dissolution container is pumped up from the lower limit of a pipe 20 with a pump 22, passes along a hose or a tube 21, and is poured into the reaction container 3.

[0034] <u>Drawing 6</u> shows the detail of the lower limit section of a pipe 20. It is in contact with the base of the alkali dissolution container 15, and the infeed 30 of the U character mold used as the passage of lye is formed in this lower limit section so that the lower limit of a pipe 20 may not leave lye but may be pumped up. Then, although the structure of preparing opening in the bottom of an alkali dissolution container, pumping out there, and connecting the pipe of business is taken with the conventional equipment containing equipment proposed [above-shown], after a pump stops, lye may remain and crystallize in a pipe and may start pipe ****. When a pump stops according to the above-mentioned structure, since the lye which remained in the pipe falls automatically in an alkali dissolution container, pipe **** does not occur, and it is in it, and is **.

[0035] The control panel 23 for performing control of each churning equipment in the temperature control of a reaction container, a reaction container, and an alkali dissolution container, control of lye impregnation, the monitor of advance of a saponification reaction, other control, monitors, setup, etc. is again formed in the top face of return and a stand 2 at <u>drawing 1</u>. The top face of a stand 2 is covered by the panel 24. Other fields may be covered by the panel.

[0036] An example of the specification of the equipment ****(ed) based on this invention is as follows. Outside meter dimension: Width of face of 360mm Die length of 600mm Height weight of 534mm: About 26kg power consumption: AC100V 680VA (50Hz)

Reaction container capacity: 2-31. (effective cubic capacity of 12.51.) of waste food oils

Alkali dissolution container capacity: 3.4l. heater rating: The number of 500W churning rotations: 50 rotation per minute (both churning equipment identitas)
[0037]

[Effect of the Invention] Even after according to this invention a reaction progresses and contents are in a solid condition in the reaction container of a soap manufacturing installation so that clearly from the above explanation, sufficient churning / crushing effectiveness can be demonstrated. And since structure is easy, cost is low.

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DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1] The top view of one example of the soap manufacturing installation by this invention.

[Drawing 2] The side elevation of the equipment shown in drawing 1. However, a sectional view shows a part.

[Drawing 3] Drawing showing three conditions of the device which fixes the upper part of the reaction container in the equipment shown in drawing 1 with a top view and a side elevation.

[<u>Drawing 4</u>] Drawing showing the support device of the pars basilaris ossis occipitalis of the reaction container in the equipment shown in <u>drawing 1</u>.

[<u>Drawing 5</u>] The side elevation of the churning equipment in the reaction container in the equipment shown in <u>drawing 1</u>.

[<u>Drawing 6</u>] Drawing showing the point of the pipe which pumps up lye from the alkali dissolution container in the equipment shown in <u>drawing 1</u>.

[Description of Notations]

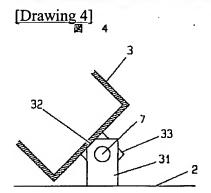
- 3: Reaction container
- 10: Churning equipment in a reaction container
- 12: The motor which drives the churning equipment in a reaction container
- 34: The revolving shaft of churning equipment 10
- 35: The impeller of churning equipment 10
- 36: The hole of the impeller of churning equipment 10

[Translation done.]

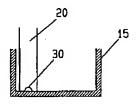
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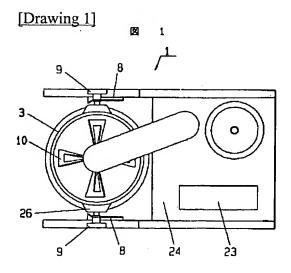
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DRAWINGS

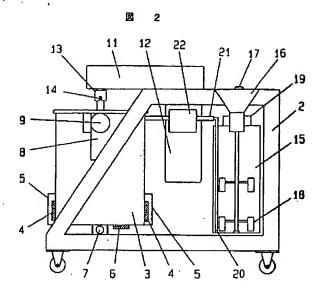


[Drawing 6]

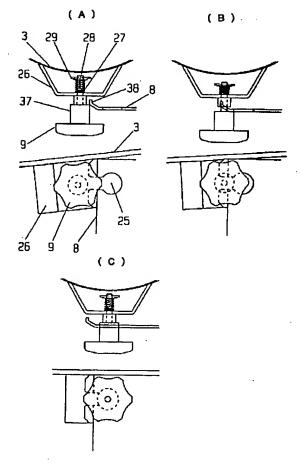




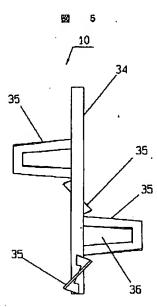
[Drawing 2]



[Drawing 3]



[Drawing 5]



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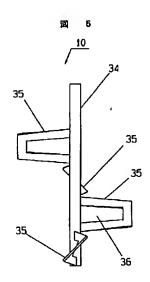
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(54)【発明の名称】 せっけん製造装置の反応容器内攪拌装置

(57)【要約】

【構成】 反応容器内の撹拌装置の各撹拌翼35が、コの字型の部材からなり、それの進行方向に対する俯角が 先端に行くほど小さくなるように、ねじれた形になって いる。複数の撹拌翼が、下のものから順に、360度の 翼数分の1ずつ、回転方向に関して遅れた角度の位置に 設けられている。

【効果】 各撹拌翼が回転の外側に向いた傾斜成分を持っため、撹拌翼に当った固形状の塊からなる被撹拌物は、回転の外側に向かう力も受けるので、回転軸の近辺に集まることがなく、十分な撹拌・破砕効果が発揮される。また、下の撹拌翼から順に、回転方向に関して順次遅れた角位置で取り付けれているので、比較的大きい塊は、相次いで到来する撹拌翼によって、下から上に持ち上げられ、そして砕かれ、比較的小さい塊は、撹拌翼の孔を抜けて、下に留まるので、効率良く小粒化できる。



【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】せっけん製造装置の反応容器内に設けられ、回転軸と、この回転軸に基部が取り付けられた複数の撹拌翼とを有し、これらの撹拌翼のそれぞれは、それの進行方向に対する俯角が先端に近いほど小さい、撹拌装置。

【請求項2】請求項1において、前記俯角は撹拌翼の基 部において90度を超えない、撹拌装置。

【請求項3】請求項1又は2において、前記複数の撹拌 翼は、下のものから順に、回転方向に関して遅れた角度 10 の位置に設けられている、撹拌装置。

【請求項4】請求項3において、前記遅れた角度はすべての撹拌翼について一定である、撹拌装置。

【請求項5】請求項4において、前記遅れた角度は36 0度を翼数で割った商に等しい、撹拌装置。

【請求項6】請求項1ないし5のいずれかにおいて、前記複数の撹拌翼のそれぞれは中央部に孔を有する、撹拌装置。

【請求項7】請求項6において、前記複数の撹拌翼のそれぞれはコの字型の部材からなり、その開いた所の端部 20が前記回転軸に固定されている、撹拌装置。

【発明の詳細な説明】

[0001]

【産業上の利用分野】本発明は、せっけん製造装置に関し、特に、一般家庭で生じる少量の廃食用油からせっけんを製造するための小型のせっけん製造装置に適した、 反応容器内の撹拌装置に関する。

[0002]

【従来の技術】従来の通常のせっけん製造装置は、非常に大型で、一般家庭で生じる少量の廃食用油を原料とし 30 たのでは、良質な石鹸を作ることが不可能であつた。その上、それによる製造工程において、「釜師」と呼ばれる専門家の長年の経験を必要とした。本発明者らは、従来の専門家たちに、素人か又はそれに近い者が、少量の廃食用油から良質なせっけんを製造できるような、方法及び装置について相談したが、それは無理であるという返事であった。

【0003】それでも、苦心の末、20リットル程度の量の廃食用油を処理できるせっけん製造装置は、提供することができた。この装置の構造は、反応容器の下部に 40ガス加熱器を配置し、反応容器内の撹拌装置を、その上方に設けたモーターにより回転させるものである。反応容器に廃食用油を入れ、ガス加熱器による加熱と撹拌装置による撹拌を続けながら、水酸化ナトリウムの水溶液を徐々に加えて、ケン化反応の終了後、反応容器からせっけんを取り出す。

【0004】しかしながら、20リットルもの量の廃食 用油を継続的に一般家庭から集めるのは、容易なことで はない。さりとて、この装置で数リットル程度の廃食用 油を処理したのでは、出来上がったせっけんに油分が残 50 存して、良質なせっけんは得られない。また、廃食用油からせっけんを製造すると、容積が約3倍に膨張するので、20リットルの廃食用油を処理するための汎用容器は、操作のための余裕を見込むと、80リットル以上の容積を必要とし、したがって、装置はかなりな大きさになる。

【0005】そこで、本発明者らは、更に研究を進め、数リットル程度の廃食用油の処理に適した小型のせっけん製造装置を、既に提案した(特願平5-71570号)。この装置では、架台に反応容器とアルカリ溶解容器とが横に並んで取り付けられている。反応容器の側部の外周面には、リボンヒータ、バンドヒータ等の加熱装置が設けられ、底部の外壁面には温度測定装置が設けられている。アルカリ溶解容器の底部には開口があり、ここにホースが接続されている。このホースは、ポンプを経て、反応容器の上部に通じており、これを通って、アルカリ溶解容器内のアルカリ水溶液が、反応容器に送られる。

【0006】反応容器の上部は、架台に取り付けられて常時はバネで反応容器側に付勢されている引き出し可能な取付ピンによって、架台に係止されており、反応容器の底部は、回転軸を介して架台に取り付けられている。反応容器は、内容物を取り出す際に、上部の取付ピンを引いて架台への係止を解き、底部の回転軸を回転中心として傾けることができる。モータは撹拌装置の上方に取り付けられ、モータの回転軸と撹拌装置の回転軸とは、結合装置により分離可能に結合されていて、反応容器を前述のように傾ける際には、この結合装置を操作して、モータの回転軸と撹拌装置の回転軸の間の結合を解くことができる。

[0007]

【発明が解決しようとする課題】反応容器の内容物は、最初は液状であり、その粘度もさしたることはない。ところが、反応が進むと、次第に粘度が増し、最後にせっけんの助剤である無水炭酸ナトリウムを添加すると、蕎麦粉をこねたような、ぼろぼろした固形状態となり、これが撹拌翼により次第に砕かれて、小粒化していく。適当に小粒化されたところで、撹拌装置を止め、内容物を取り出して、乾燥し、粉砕機で粉砕して、粉せっけんにする。

【0008】撹拌装置に格別の工夫をこらさなくても、 反応容器の内容物が液状の間は、特に不都合はない。問題は、固形状態となった後の小粒化過程にあり、従来の 撹拌装置は、この過程における撹拌・破砕能力が、必ず しも満足できるものではなかった。原因の一つとして、 撹拌翼の各点の周方向速度が回転軸に近いほど小さいた め、固形状の多数の塊からなる被撹拌物は、次第に回転 軸の近辺に集まってしまい、そのために、撹拌・破砕能 力が低下するのではないかと考えられる。

【0009】本発明の課題は、反応容器の内容物が固形

状態となった後も、十分な撹拌・破砕効果を発揮して、 小粒化を効率良く遂行できるように、反応容器内の撹拌 装置を改良することにある。

[0010]

【課題を解決するための手段】本発明の撹拌装置においては、回転軸に取り付けられた複数の撹拌翼のそれぞれが、その進行方向に対する俯角が先端に近いほど小さい形状を有する。この俯角は、撹拌翼の取付け部で90度を超えないようにするのがよい。

【0011】これらの撹拌翼は、下のものから順に、回 10 転方向に関して遅れた角度の位置に設けるとよい。例えば、相次ぐ撹拌翼を、一定角度ずつ遅れた位置に設ける。一つの態様は、n個の撹拌翼を、360度のn分の1ずつ遅れた位置に設けることである。

【0012】各撹拌翼は、中央部に孔がある方がよい。 例えば、コの字型の部材を用い、その開いた所の端部を 軸に固定する。

[0013]

【作用】本発明によれば、各撹拌翼は、回転の外側に向いた傾斜成分を有する。その結果、撹拌翼に当った被撹 20 拌物は、回転の外側に向かう力も受けるので、回転軸の近辺に集まることがなく、したがって、十分な撹拌・破砕効果が発揮される。

【0014】また、前記のような俯角を持つ複数の撹拌 翼を、下のものから順に、回転方向に関して順次遅れた 角位置で取り付ければ、被撹拌物は、相次いで到来する 撹拌翼によって、下から上に持ち上げられ、そして砕か れる。

【0015】更に、撹拌翼に孔を開けておけば、比較的大きい塊は、前記のように、下から上に持ち上げられな 30がら砕かれるが、比較的小さい塊は、孔を抜けて、下に留まるので、効率良く小粒化できる。

[0016]

【実施例】図1及び図2は、本発明によるせっけん製造装置の一実施例の、それぞれ平面図及び側面図である。このせっけん製造装置1の諸部品は、架台2に取り付けられる。中心的な部品は、反応容器3と、アルカリ溶解容器15である。

【0017】反応容器3は、10ないし15リットルの実容量を有し、それにより、1.5ないし3リットルの40廃食用油を処理することができる。反応容器3の側部外周面の下部には、バンドヒータ、リボンヒータ等の加熱装置4が設けられ、この加熱装置の外側は断熱材5で覆われている。反応容器3の底面には、温度測定装置6が取り付けられており、これは、過熱防止のための温度スイッチを含む。反応容器3は、容器支点軸7と容器固定ピン9により保持され、容器固定ピン9を架台2への係合から外すと、反応容器3を、容器支点軸7を回転中心として、図2において左方に傾けることができる。

【00018】まず、容器固定ピン9による保持を詳述 50

すれば、図1に示すように、架台2の両側面にそれぞれ容器固定板8が固着され、直立位置における反応容器3の容器固定板8に対向する各側面には、それぞれ、固定ピン取付板26が固着されている。図3に示すように、固定ピン取付板26には、容器固定ピン9が通る孔があり、この孔を貫通した容器固定ピン9に圧縮バネ27をはめ、更にこのバネを抑えるワッシャー28をはめ、最後に抜け止め用ピン29を打ち込む。この構造により、容器固定ピン9は、常に反応容器3側に引き付けられている。容器固定ピン9は、手で握るのに適したかなり大きい太さの取っ手部と、固定ピン取付板26の孔を緩く通る細い先端部と、それらの中間の太さの中間部(係合部)37とからなる。

【0019】他方、架台2に固定された容器固定板8には、保持用の横向きの切込み25が設けられており、この切込み25は、幅が容器固定ピン9の先端部の直径よりは十分大きいが、中間部37の直径よりは小さいスロット部と、その奥の、容器固定ピン9の中間部37が楽に入るような寸法の保持部とからなる。平常状態においては、図3の(C)に示すように、容器固定ピン9の中間部37が、切込み25の保持部にはまり込んで、反応容器3を安定に保持する。容器固定板8の横方向の端部は、15度ないし30度の角度で反応容器側に曲げられており、その先端38は、図3の(A)に示すように、平常状態にある容器固定ピン9の先端部と中間部37の境界よりも、若干反応容器側に位置する。

【0020】反応容器の両側の容器固定ピン9を両手で外側に引くと、各ピンの細い先端部が容器固定板8の切り込み25の位置に達し、続いて、容器固定ピンを引いた手をそのままに、今度は図2及び図3において左方に引けば、容器固定ピン9は、図3の(B)に示すように、スロット部を通って、切込み25の外に出ることができ、したがって、反応容器3の上部を、容器固定ピンと共に、同じく左方に動かすことができる。その後取っ手部から手を放すと、容器固定ピン9は、バネ27に引かれて、図3の(A)に示すように、固定ピン取付板26に関して平常位置に復旧する。

【0021】反応容器を平常位置に戻すには、容器固定 ピン9には手を触れずに、反応容器3の上部を図2及び 図3において左から右に押すと、図3の(A)及び

(B)に示すように、容器固定ピン9の中間部37の先端が、容器固定板8の端部の傾斜に沿って外側に押されて、細い先端部が切込み25のスロット部に入る。更に押すと、遂に容器固定ピン9の中間部37が切込み25の保持部の位置に達し、バネ27に引かれてそこにはまり込んで、図3の(C)に示す平常状態に戻り、かくして、反応容器3は垂直位置に確実に固定される。

【0022】前掲特願平5-71570号により先に提案した装置では、上述した構造とは逆に、架台側に容器固定ピンが取り付けられ、反応容器側に容器固定ピンの

入る切込みを持つ案内部材が設けられている。そのため、反応容器を傾ける時に、一人が両手で容器固定ピンを引き、もう一人が反応容器の取っ手を引いて、二人掛かりで操作しなければならなかった。これと対照的に、上述の構造によれば、容器固定ピンが反応容器の取っ手を兼ねているので、一人だけで、容器固定ピンを両手で外側に引き、続けて手前に引くことにより、容易に反応容器を傾けることができる。

【0023】次に、容器支点軸7による保持を詳述すれば、図4に示すように、容器支点板31が架台2に固着 10 され、また、容器支え板33が反応容器3の底部に固着されて、それぞれに、容器支点軸7の通る孔が開けられている。容器支点軸7の一端にはリング状のつばが付いており、他端の近くにはピンを通す孔が開いていて、容器支点板31と容器支え板33の各孔を貫通した容器支点軸7は、前記のつばと、前記の孔に打ち込まれた抜け止め用ピンとによって、抜けるのを防がれている。

【0024】この構造により、反応容器3は、容器支点軸7を軸として、図2において左右に回動可能であり、したがって、反応容器3の上部を前述のように左右に動かすことによって、反応容器3を傾けたり、戻したりすることができる。組立て・分解も容易である。容器支点板31の一角に適当な角度で設けられた切欠き部32は、傾倒ストッパとして作用し、反応容器3が傾けられた時に、その底面に当って、それ以上傾くのを阻止する。過剰傾倒の防止には様々な機構が考えられるけれども、前記の機構が、簡単な構造でありながら、確実に所定角度で傾倒を止めることができる点で、優れている。

【0025】図1及び図2に戻って、反応容器3の内部には、撹拌装置10が収められており、その回転力は、反応容器3の側方に設けられたモーター12から、ベルト、チェーン、歯車列等の動力伝達装置11を介して伝達される。撹拌装置10の回転数は、毎分30ないし50回転である。前掲既提案の装置もそうであるが、従来は、モーターを反応容器の真上に置き、このモーターで撹拌装置を直接駆動していた。ところが、そのような構造では、モーターが反応容器からの蒸気や熱にさらされて、絶縁不良や錆が発生し、これが原因で故障する場合が多かった。しかし、前述の構造によれば、このような故障をほぼ完全に防ぐことができる。

【0026】撹拌装置10の軸は、結合装置13によって、動力伝達装置11側の軸と、分離可能に結合されている。結合装置13は、動力伝達装置11側の軸にかぶせられた遊動可能なリングであり、平常は下方位置に下げられていて、その下端に設けられた切込みに、撹拌装置10側の軸に設けられたピン14が入り込んで、それにより軸間の結合が保たれる。結合装置を上に移動させると、その切込みからピン14が外れて、軸間結合が解かれるので、撹拌装置10を反応容器3と共に傾けることできる。

【0027】図5は、撹拌装置10の詳細を、特に撹拌 翼について示す。この図において、撹拌器は、左側が紙 面の後方に向い、右側が紙面の手前に向かう方向に、回 転する。4個の撹拌翼35が、下のものから順に、回転 方向に関して90度ずつ遅れた角位置で、取り付けられ ている。個々の撹拌翼は、コの字型の板状部材で、その 基部(コの字の開いた方)が軸34の軸線とほぼ並行に 取り付けられ、先端部が進行方向に対して約45度の俯 角を持つようにねじれている。

【0028】撹拌翼は、その取付部においても垂直方向 から若干傾いていてもよい。 撹拌翼の数は4個に限ら ず、また、すべての翼間遅れ角を同一にする必要も、必 ずしもない。しかし、典型的な設計は、3個ないし6個 の翼を、360度の翼数分の1ずつ遅れた位置に、設け ることである。また、翼の部材は、コの字型のものに限 らず、適当な寸法と形状の孔が開けられていればよい。 【0029】この構造の作用効果を説明する。反応容器 の内容物は、最初は液状であり、その粘度もさしたるこ とはない。ところが、反応が進むと、次第に粘度が増 し、最後にせっけんの助剤である無水炭酸ナトリウムを 添加すると、蕎麦粉をこねたような、ぼろぼろした固形 状態となり、これが撹拌翼により次第に砕かれて、小粒 化していく。適当に小粒化されたところで、撹拌を止 め、内容物を取り出して、乾燥し、粉砕機で粉砕して、 粉せっけんにする。

【0030】問題は、固形状態となった後の小粒化過程にあり、これを効率良く遂行することが望まれるが、従来の撹拌装置は、必ずしも満足できるものではなかった。一つの問題は、撹拌翼の各点の周方向速度は回転軸に近いほど小さいため、撹拌翼の俯角が基部から先端まで一様であると、被撹拌物は、次第に回転軸の近辺に集まってくるので、撹拌効果が低減する。しかし、前述の構造では、撹拌翼がねじれているので、俯角は翼の先端になるほど大きい。換言すれば、この撹拌翼は、回転の外側に向いた傾斜成分を持つ。その結果、撹拌翼に当った被撹拌物は、回転の外側に向かう力も受けるので、回転軸の近辺に集まることがなく、したがって、十分な撹拌・破砕効果が発揮される。

【0031】また、前述した構造によれば、複数の撹拌 40 翼が、下のものから順に、回転方向に関して一定角度ず つ遅れた角位置で取り付けられ、かつ、進行方向に対し て俯角を持つので、比較的大きい塊は、相次いで到来す る撹拌翼によって、下から上に持ち上げられ、そして砕 かれる。しかし、比較的小さい塊は、コの字型の翼の孔 36を抜けて、下に留まる。したがって、効率良く小粒 化することができる。

【0032】再び図1及び図2に戻って、反応容器3の 側方には、また、アルカリ溶解容器15が設けられてお り、その実容量は、2ないし4リットルである。図2に 50 おいて、アルカリ溶解容器15は、その断面が示されて 7

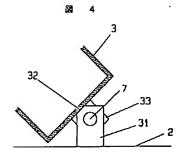
いる。アルカリ溶解容器15の上方にはロート16が設けられ、ここから、水酸化ナトリウム等のフレーク状のアルカリ材料と水を入れる。ロート16には、ごみなどがアルカリ溶解容器に入らないように、蓋17が設けられる。アルカリ溶解容器15の内部には撹拌装置18が収められており、これは、アルカリ溶解容器の上方に設けられたモーター19により回転されて、容器内の材料を撹拌する。この撹拌装置の回転数も、毎分30ないし50回転である。

【0033】アルカリ溶解容器15の内部には、その内 10壁に沿って、パイプ20が縦方向に挿入されており、その上端はホース又はチューブ21に接続され、このホース又はチューブは、ポンプ22を介して、反応容器3の中に延びている。アルカリ溶解容器内のアルカリ液は、ポンプ22により、パイプ20の下端から汲み上げられて、ホース又はチューブ21を通り、反応容器3に注入される。

【0034】図6は、パイプ20の下端部の詳細を示す。パイプ20の下端は、アルカリ液を余さず汲み上げられるように、アルカリ溶解容器15の底面に接してお20り、この下端部には、アルカリ液の流路となるU字型の切込み30が設けられている。前掲既提案の装置を含む従来の装置では、アルカリ溶解容器の底に開口を設けて、そこに汲み出し用のパイプを接続する構造がとられているが、それでは、ポンプが停止した後で、アルカリ液がパイプ内に残留し、結晶して、パイプ詰りを起こすことがある。前述の構造によれば、ボンプが停止すると、パイプ内に残ったアルカリ液はアルカリ溶解容器内に自然に落下するので、パイプ詰りは起きないい。

【0035】再度図1に戻り、架台2の上面には、反応 30 容器の温度調整、反応容器内及びアルカリ溶解容器内の 各撹拌装置の制御、アルカリ液注入の制御、ケン化反応 の進行の監視、その他の制御・監視・設定などを行なう ための制御盤23が、設けられている。架台2の上面は、バネル24によって覆われている。他の面もパネルで覆ってもよい。

【図4】



【0036】本発明に基づいて実作された装置の仕様の一例は、次のとおりである。

外計寸法: 幅360m 長さ600m 高さ534m 重量: 約26kg

消費電力: AC100V 680VA(50Hz) 反応容器容量: 廃食用油2~3リットル(実容積1 2.5リットル)

アルカリ溶解容器容量: 3.4リットル

ヒータ定格: 500W

10 撹拌回転数: 50回転每分(両撹拌装置同一) 【0037】

【発明の効果】以上の説明から明らかなように、本発明によれば、せっけん製造装置の反応容器において、反応が進んで内容物が固形状態になった後も、十分な撹拌・破砕効果を発揮することができる。しかも、構造は簡単であるから、コストは低い。

【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】本発明によるせっけん製造装置の一実施例の平 面図

【図2】図1に示された装置の側面図。ただし、一部を 断面図で示す。

【図3】図1に示された装置における反応容器の上部を 固定する機構の三つの状態を平面図と側面図で示す図。

【図4】図1に示された装置における反応容器の底部の 支持機構を示す図。

【図5】図1に示された装置における反応容器内の撹拌 装置の側面図。

【図6】図1に示された装置におけるアルカリ溶解容器からアルカリ液を汲み上げるパイプの先端部を示す図。

30 【符号の説明】

3:反応容器

10:反応容器内の撹拌装置

12: 反応容器内の撹拌装置を駆動するモーター

34:撹拌装置10の回転軸

35:撹拌装置10の撹拌翼

36:撹拌装置10の撹拌翼の孔

【図6】

